**Reduction in Import of oil**

337. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that setting up of more oil refineries in the country would reduce import of oil at high cost and in hard currency; and

(b) If so, what are the Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) Crude oil for refining, over and above domestic production, needs to be imported and will involve less foreign exchange than for imports of products.

(b) Efforts are being made to increase the refining capacity by taking up expansion of existing refineries and by setting up of new grass root refineries both in the Joint Venture and Private Sector in order to reduce imports of products.

**Setting up of Grass-root oil Refineries**

338. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up three grass-root Oil Refineries in Eastern, Central and Western Regions as a part of its drive to meet the growing demand for petroleum products; and

(b) if so, what would be the annual installed capacity of each refinery and exact location of each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Government has approved the setting up of three new grass root refineries on joint ventures each with a capacity of 6 MMTPA to be located in Eastern India, Central India and Western India. This will add 18 Million tonnes per annum to the oil refining capacity in the country. The exact locations will be decided by the respective joint venture companies.

**Import of Natural gas from the gulf Countries**

339. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to import natural gas from the gulf countries; and

(b) of so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The project is at a conceptual stage and details in this regard have not been worked out.

**Offer for Development of Oil and Gas fields**

340. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of oil and gas fields offered to private companies for development;

(b) the States in which these are located;

(c) what has been the response so far;

(d) whether it is a fact that there are no takers for oil fields in Assam; and

(e) if so, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) 43 oil and gas fields have been offered to private companies for development, either on their own or in joint venture with ONGC/Oil India Limited.

(b) The fields are located in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

(c) 117 bids have been received for these fields.

(d) and (e) No bids were submitted for the fields in Assam. As submission of bids by companies is a commercial decision, it is not possible to give any reasons for bids not being received for the oilfields in Assam.

**Gas processing capacity in the Country**

341. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission's gas processing complex at Hazira proposes to double its capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the gas processing capacity in the country is inadequate to meet its demand; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to boost production of gas in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) ONGC are implementing a project to enhance the processing capacity of the Hazira gas Terminal from 20 MMSCMD to 41 MMSCMD.

(c) While gas processing capacity in the country is by and large adequate to meet the present off-take, several projects are being implemented to raise this capacity to handle the higher availability of natural gas estimated in future in order to meet supplies to consumers to whom this gas has been committed.

(d) Government have approved a number of Oil & Gas field development and gas processing & transportation projects. Private sector participation in the sector is also being encouraged.

**Setting up of LPG Bottling Plants near consuming Centres**

342. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has decided to set up a chain of medium range LPG bottling plants near consuming centres;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of places identified for setting up of each LPG bottling plant;

(d) whether adequate safety measures would be taken into account before setting up of each centres; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (e) LPG bottling plants with different capacities are set up on techno-economic considerations after obtaining necessary safety clearances from concerned statutory authorities. Bottling plants at following locations are either under construction or proposed to be set up by I.O.C. during the 8th plan period :

1. Delhi
2. Bikaner
3. Farukhabad
4. Patiala
5. Akola
6. Ahmedabad
7. Bhavnagar
8. Calcutta
9. Tripura
10. Manipur
11. Mizoram
12. Sikkim
13. Guwahati
14. Cuddapah
15. Trichy/Tanjore
16. Madras